



Fact Sheet

US 51/WIS 29 Corridor Foxglove Road to Bridge Street

The US 51/WIS 29 Corridor Project will reconstruct the highway between Foxglove Road and Bridge Street. Improvements include the interchanges at Marathon County N and NN, Sherman Street, WIS 29, WIS 52 and Bridge Street along US 51, the interchange ramps to Stewart Avenue along WIS 29, and the overpass at Robin Lane.

Recent changes to the project

Design changes have been made to various portions of the project since the last public information meeting held in September 2002. Revisions include:

- The westbound WIS 29 system ramp to southbound US 51 has been redesigned to be a left-side exit opposed to a right-side exit eliminating one structure and reducing project costs.
- The two structures on westbound WIS 29, spanning Sherman Street and the railroad, have been connected creating one longer structure. This eliminates the need for roadway fill between the two structures and reduces costs.
- The two structures on the eastbound WIS 29 to northbound US 51 system ramp spanning 28th Avenue and mainline US 51 have been connected to create one longer structure, thus reducing project costs. The structure has also been extended to the west minimizing right-of-way impacts to Wausau Steel.
- The city of Wausau requested that Pine Crest Avenue and Seymour Lane, near the existing WIS 29 loop ramp, be connected. This eliminates the two previously proposed cul-de-sacs.
- The 20th Avenue alignment has been modified to reduce the steepness of the roadway through the intersection with the access road to the Westwood Conference Center.
- Funding has been advanced to allow the real estate acquisition process to begin north of the Rib River in 2004 rather than 2005.

Real Estate acquisition schedule

Designers for the US 51/WIS 29 Corridor project recently developed a more refined construction staging schedule required for the project. WisDOT also revised the real estate acquisition schedule to accommodate the updated construction schedule. In order to meet these updated schedules, WisDOT advanced funding to allow the real estate acquisition process to begin sooner than originally anticipated in certain areas. These areas are defined by the right of way required to meet the needs of construction.

- Real estate acquisition is currently in progress near the Marathon County N and NN interchanges. Acquisition north of the Rib River will begin in early 2004. Real estate acquisition is expected to be completed by 2008. A handout showing the anticipated acquisition schedule is available upon request.



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Construction schedule

The Marathon County N interchange project is the first of many construction projects required to construct the entire US 51/WIS 29 corridor. This interchange is scheduled to begin construction in 2004. The entire corridor improvement project is scheduled for completion by 2012. Major projects throughout the corridor are currently scheduled for construction as follows:

• US 51/WIS 29 Mainline	2004 - 2009
• Marathon County N interchange	2004 - 2005
• Robin Lane overpass	2005
• US 51/WIS 29 east interchange	2005 - 2006
• Marathon County NN interchange	2005 - 2006
• WIS 52	2005 - 2006
• Rib River bridges	2005 - 2008
• Sherman Street interchange ramps	2005 - 2008
• Bridge Street interchange	2006 - 2007
• US 51/WIS 29 west interchange south system ramps	2006 - 2009
• Sherman Street	2010
• US 51/WIS 29 west interchange north system ramps	2011 - 2012

Traffic impacts during construction

It is anticipated that two lanes of traffic in each direction will be maintained on US 51 during construction. Short-term nighttime roadway closures will be required on US 51/WIS 29 and other local roadways during structure beam placement and removal. Ramp closures will be required at various interchanges during construction.

Properties adjacent to this project will have access at all times. If a temporary road closure is required during construction, access will be provided to adjacent businesses and residences.

Marathon County N interchange

The Marathon County N interchange project includes reconstruction of Marathon County N interchange ramps and approximately 1.65 miles of US 51/WIS 29, including replacing the structures over Marathon County N. Construction plans include:

- Construction is expected to begin in July of 2004 and conclude by December 2005.
- Construction on Marathon County N will begin in spring 2005, after the completion of the west corridor project.
- Short-term ramp closures, up to two weeks in duration, are expected in 2005 for the northbound on-ramp from Marathon County N. All other ramps may experience sporadic short term closures lasting from several hours to a few days.
- Short-term nighttime closures of Marathon County N will be required for bridge removal and construction in 2004 and 2005.
- A detour route will be in effect beginning after Labor Day 2004, and could be in place as late as May 2005, for motorists entering onto US 51/WIS 29 southbound from Marathon County N destined for southbound I-39. Motorists can avoid this detour by entering onto southbound US 51 from the Marathon County NN interchange.
- Significant traffic delays are expected during construction. Motorists are encouraged to use the newly constructed west corridor and other existing interchanges along the corridor to access US 51/WIS 29.